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ORIGIN OF THE

"Stars and Stripes"

By J. William Pope

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Alone in the forest Columbia stood weeping;
She wept that no flag for her offspring was found—
A flag with the magical power of keeping
Her children in Liberty's circle still bound.

ROWLAND H.
MURDOCH

Hot tears, pearly tears, o'er her garment went streaming,
And washed the deep crimson away in their flow,
Beneath the soft light of the stars mildly gleaming,
She saw the broad stripes dawning white as the snow.

All hail bonny stripes, though begotten in sorrow,
All hail thou bright promise of hope to the land;
Though dark be the night, at the dawn of the morrow
New courage and strength lifts the heart and the hand.

She turned her glad eyes, though bedimmed, toward heaven
And thanked the bright stars for the light which they shed;
She whispered, "Behold the white stripes that are given
To mingle and wave with this beautiful red."

ROWLAND R. MURDOCH

The stars then rejoiced at Columbia's found treasure,
And thirteen—the brightest—came down with their blue;
Around her fond bosom, then heaving with pleasure,
They clustered, still shining, and never withdrew.

O, bright stars, shine ever, untarnished, in glory,
And guide every people to freedom's blest shore;
Let nations to be yet, with joy hear the story
Of stars which came down to remain evermore.

The eagle at morning was heavenward winging,
And saw the bright stars far beneath him still burn;
He heard the loud chorus of patriots singing
Huzzahs, and he halted, the mystery to learn.
He came from the clouds, and he perched on her bonnet,
With wings still outspread, as though shielding his young;
Columbia's glad children then wove him in sonnet
With "Red, White and Blue," which so proudly they sung.

Hurrah! for the eagle, the bird of the nation,
In peace let him sit on our banner in pride;
All races of people, from high or low station,
From tyranny's lashes beneath him shall hide.

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